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SECRET SERVICE

Thirty-three Centuries of Espionage

by Richard Wilmer Rowan and Robert Deindorfer

introduction by Allen W. Dulles

Voltaire once remarked that the sound of history is the tread of boots going up stairs and the patter of satin slippers coming down. Secret Service: Thirty-three Centuries of Espionage reveals the stealthy steps of intriguers going up and down the backstairs of history, century after century, influencing the future of great and small nations and the lives of everyone.

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This is not a collection of stories, but a brilliant history sweeping through more than three thousand years to form a Machiavellian saga in brilliant and fascinating format.

Time and time again, the authors show how espionage methods of deceit, vigilance, treachery, cunning and loyalty have been used to penetrate the greatest secrets of every nation in the world. Methods, for example, employed by the spies that followed Christ before his crucifixion were repeated during the religious conflicts of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and by French agents during the Revolution and Napoleonic Wars. In the twentieth century they have been repeated again by the Gestapo, the CIA, the NKVD, and Interpol, and they continue to flourish in the basest practices of the Chinese Communists.

In addition to illustrating the methods of espionage, Secret Service presents an illuminating thesis: that the strength, intricacy and secrecy of secret service organizations reflect and depend on the victories and blunderings of the governments which control them.

Hundreds of past masters of intrigue are treated, including Mithridates the Great, who had a primitive secret service system; the Spanish Inquisitors; Papal secret agents of the Middle Ages; Henry VIII and the beginnings of British secret service; Karl Schulmeister, greatest of military spies in the time of Napoleon; Elizabeth van Lew, secret service genius of the American Civil War; Alfred Redl and many, many others.

Particular emphasis is placed on the development of modern spying, including the beginnings of sophisticated espionage systems in World Wars I and II, Klaus Fuchs, the conspiracy of Harry Gold and the Rosenbergs, the operations of Colonel Abel and Gordon Lonsdale, master spies of the Cold War, and the fantastic gimmicks and intricate gadgets which were developed after World War II.

Richard Wilmer Rowan, who brought much of this text to public attention in 1939, was the author of Spy and Counterspy, The Spy and the Next War, and The Pinkertons: A Detective Dynasty. Robert Deindorfer has skillfully edited and updated the material and provided all of the chapters on espionage during and since World War II. Mr. Deindorfer has written for Life, Look, The Reader's Digest, True and The Saturday Evening Post and is well known for his books and lectures on espionage.

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